Modernisation of railway stations and construction of other projects in U.P.

907. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number with names of railway stations which are being modernised and the other on-going projects in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is planning new railway tracks in U.P. in view of the large size of the State and the requirements of travelling public; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In Uttar Pradesh, work for modernisation of nine stations *viz.*, Meerut City, Moradabad, Lucknow, Allahabad Jn., Lucknow Jn., Gorakhpur, Kathgodam, Allahabad City and Agra Fort under the Model Station scheme has been taken up.

The following are the on-going Projects:—

Construction of new lines

1. Mathura — Alwar
2. Rampur — New Haldwani (Kathgodam)
3. Bagaha — Chhitauni (Restoration)
4. Guna — Etawah

Gauge Conversion

1. Varanasi — Bhatni including Salempur — Barhajbazar.
2. Kashipur — Lalkua
3. Chhapra — Aunrihar

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Scarcity of resources.

Subletting of Government accommodation in Sarojini Nagar

908. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of government quarters sublet in A to D Blocks Special Type Quarters, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi during the last three years and whether there are some quarters occupied by some unauthorised persons in these blocks and are being misused by these allottees by subletting them for ulterior motives; and

(b) what steps government propose to take against these allottees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) During the last three years, 23 government quarters were reported sublet in A to D Blocks of Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi. After detailed enquiry allotments in 12 cases were cancelled. 4 quarters were vacated by the allottees after service of show cause notice. In 2 cases no subletting could be proved. Remaining 5 cases are still under investigation.

Harmful effects of pesticides

909. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the harmful effects of various pesticides on human being due to toxic after-effects;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the licensing and import of such pesticides;

(c) whether Government have implemented the recommendation of Banerjee Committee set up in 1984,

(d) whether the above Committee has been revamped and if so, what has been the progress so far and by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(e) whether all these reports would be made available for public at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government keeps on reviewing the use/licensing/import of pesticides reported to be acutely hazardous, from time to time through Central Insecticides Board/Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968 as well as through High Level Expert Committees.

(c) and (d) The Government had constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. N. Banerjee in 1984 to review the use in India of Pesticides which are banned/restricted in other countries. This Committee was re-constituted in 1986, 1987 & 1989. The committee was given the task to review 31 pesticides, the reports on which have since been received by the Government. The Government have already implemented the recommendation of the Committee on 12 pesticides and recommendations on remaining 19 are under examination.

(e) It has been decided to release to public all the reports of Banerjee Committee on which decision has already been taken by the Government.

Foreign visits by the officers of the Ministry of Steel

910. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the officers of the Ministry of Steel who visited foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the expenditure incurred and the duration of each of the visits;

(b) what was the purpose of each of the visits; and

(c) whether the expenditure on these visits was incurred either by the Ministry or its undertakings or attached offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement in the quality of food supplied in Long distance trains

911. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to improve the quality of food supplied in long distance trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Constant efforts are made by Railways to improve the quality of food and service. Steps taken/proposed to be taken include, introduction of casserole service, modernisation of base kitchens, training to catering staff, introduction of pantry car service, regular/surprise inspections etc.

Doubling of B.G. line between Erakulam and Trivandrum

912. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to double the broad gauge line between Ernakulam and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On Ernakulam-Trivandrum section of Southern Railway, an alternative BG line has been proposed for contruction between Ernakulam-Kayankulam, of this Ernakulam-Alleppey (57 kms.) has al-